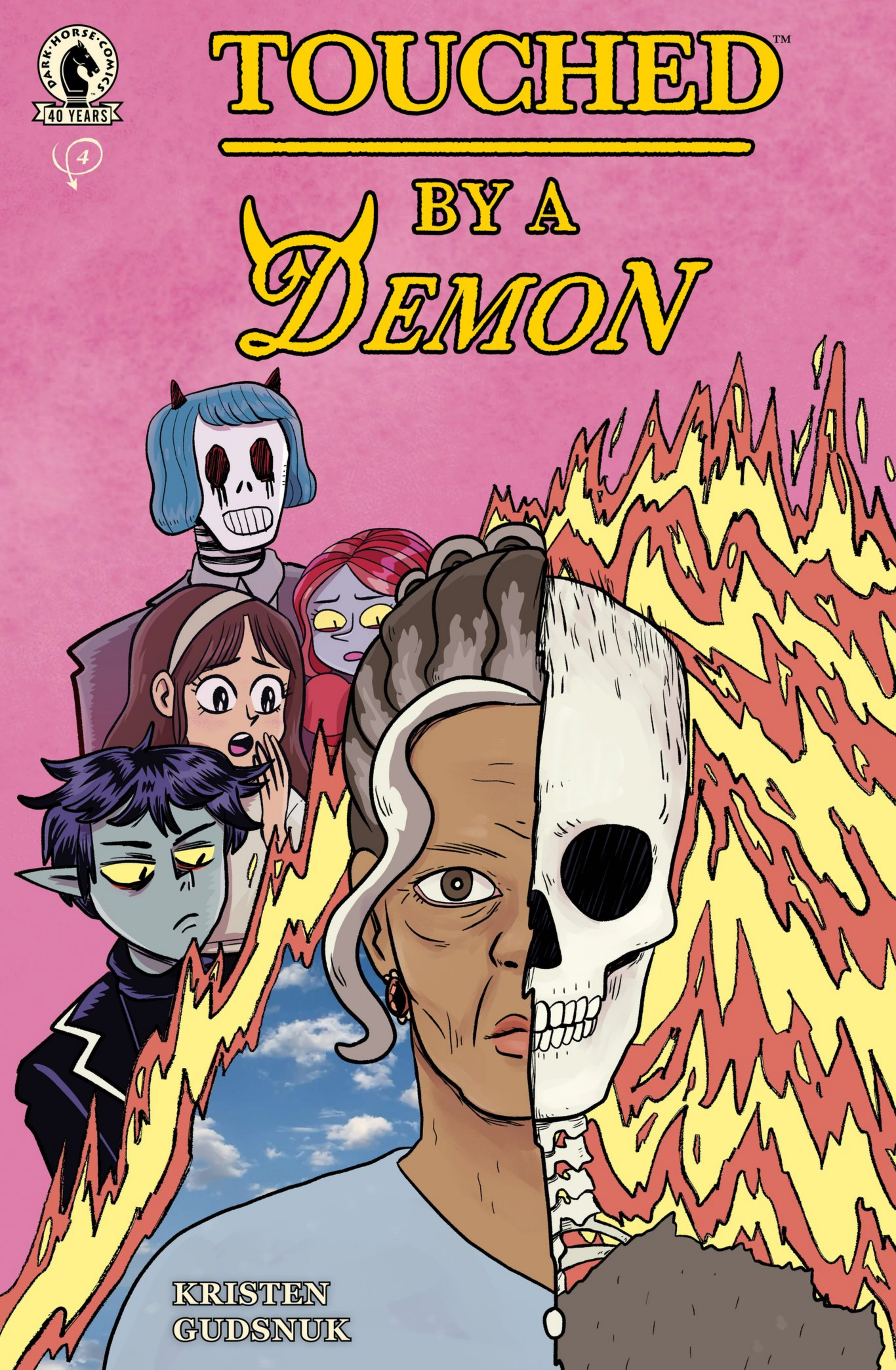
DARK HORSE COMICS
40 YEARS

4

TOUCHED BY A DEMON™



KRISTEN GUDSNUK

BIFRONS & ZUZU

LIFE COACHING LLC

WALK-INS WELCOME!

WE ARE EAGER TO

fix your life

AND

save your soul

WE'LL MAKE YOU A PERSONALLY TAILORED LIFE PLAN! **FOR FREE!**

TOUCHED™ BY A *DEMON*

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MAMMON!!!

MAMMON! HELLO!

I--

AHHH

LET ME SHOW YOU MY LATEST CURSED TEXTBOOK, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING HERE BY THE WAY--

W-WHERE ARE OUR MANNERS? LET ME GET YOU SOME VIRGIN BLOOD, YOU MUST BE THIRSTY.

CHAOS

WENDY? ARE YOU A VIRGIN?

YEAH...

SCRAMBLE

Free pen?

Shuffle shuffle

Just a normal smart speaker...

YES, SCRAMBLE AROUND LIKE DISORIENTED COCKROACHES. IT MAKES THE MESSAGE I HAVE TO DELIVER SLIGHTLY LESS BITTER.

SO THIS IS YOUR HUMAN FAMILIAR, WENDY ASKLEPIOS. B&Z'S FIRST DAMNED SOUL.

ERM... NICE TO MEET YOU, MAMMON.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU FROM POP CULTURE. YOU'RE VERY TALL IN REAL LIFE.

WHY... THANK YOU.

OH, MAMMON, DID YOU GET YOUR SKULL WAXED? IT LOOKS GREAT.

LEAN

I AM DISPLEASED WITH YOU, BIFRONS. YOU'VE BROKEN PROTOCOL.

YOU VACATED YOUR POST IN HELL AND CAUSED A BACKLOG OF TORTURED SOULS.

SOULS JUST SITTING AROUND, ***NOT*** BEING TORTURED, AS IF WE'RE JUST A HOTTER ***PURGATORY.***

IT MAKES *ME* LOOK BAD.

AFTER I *EXPLICITLY* TOLD YOU TO STAY AT YOUR POST AND KEEP DOING THE WORK I ASSIGNED YOU.

THE ABSOLUTE *NERVE.*

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE MY LEGIONS OF SPIRITS, FINE. GO AHEAD AND GIVE THEM TO FURFUR, LIKE I KNOW YOU ALREADY WANT TO.

BUT IF YOU WANT ME TO RETURN TO HELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO--

I CAN HAVE YOU BACK IN HELL WITH ONE SNAP OF MY CLAWS.

CRACK

FEAR IS THE MINION MOTIVATOR

Lucifer

WAS HELL ALWAYS THIS DEPRESSING, OR IS IT JUST YOUR OFFICE?

SNEER~

IF YOU'RE GOING TO DISEMBOWEL US FOR INSUBORDINATION, JOKE'S ON YOU, WE HAD MEXICAN LAST NIGHT!

NO.

LUCKY FOR YOU, I'M NOT EVEN GOING TO FLAY YOUR ARMS AND MAKE A NICE SENSIBLE PAIR OF LOAFERS FROM YOUR SKIN.

BECAUSE *I* FOLLOW PROTOCOL. *I* RESPECT THE CHAIN OF COMMAND. AND THE CHAIN OF COMMAND...

Lucifer

YOU MEAN ...

...LUCIFER?

...IS ***HAPPY*** WITH THE WORK YOU'VE BEEN DOING IN THE MORTAL REALM.

WUT

I'D BE IMPRESSED, TOO, IF I WEREN'T SO OFFENDED YOU DISREGARDED MY ORDERS.

REALLY? HE'S ***HAPPY*** WITH MY LIFE COACH AGENCY?

THAT'S GREAT! YOU ALWAYS ***WERE*** DESPERATE FOR HIS APPROVAL, BOSS.

SHH, YOU'RE MAKING ME SOUND LAME...

IT'S BEEN, WHAT, A MONTH? AND YOU'VE ALREADY DAMNED... NOW, WHERE DID I PUT THAT SOUL COUNTER...

FLIP

PULL

A COURT OF HORNY MOSES

SIXTY-THREE SOULS.

GRUNT.

I HAVE?

WASN'T THAT THE GOAL?

N--

YES, THAT WAS THE GOAL.

SMAK

AN EARTHQUAKE OF PURE EVIL AND INDIFFERENCE SWALLOWED UP A ***LOT*** OF THEM. THAT WAS CLEVER.

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING ONE OF THE ***HORSEMEN*** WOULD THINK UP.

IN FACT, THIS WHOLE ENTERPRISE WOULD BE ***MUCH*** BETTER SUITED TO SOMEONE ELSE.

SEETHE

SOMEONE LIKE GUSION, FOR INSTANCE.

TO BE FAIR, GUSION ***IS*** A GOOD LISTENER. HE'D BE A GREAT LIFE COACH.

HE ***DOES*** GIVE THE BEST ADVICE. HE'S NOT AT ALL JUDGMENTAL, EITHER.

...WHY DO I EVEN TRY?

ANYWAY, TO THE TASK AT HAND.

heh

HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "BONUS POINTS IF YOU CAN CORRUPT THAT DELICIOUS PRIEST YOU'VE BEEN CHATTING UP."

LUCIFER IS WILLING TO GIVE YOU A PROMOTION WITH LOTS OF NEFARIOUS PERKS ONCE YOU'VE DAMNED ***THREE*** MORE SOULS. BRINGING YOUR TOTAL UP TO A TIDY ***SIXTY-SIX.***

YOU MIGHT EVEN WIN BACK YOUR LITTLE LUTE IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT.

WHAT IS GOING ON?!

THEY'RE...

...GONE?

BIFRONS & ZUZU
LIFE COACHING LLC

CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHAT JUST HAPPENED? BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE A TEN-FOOT DEMON JUST TOOK AWAY YOUR... LIFE COACHES?

THERE'S A RATIONAL EXPLANATION FOR THAT.

...

UMM.

FRONS IS AN AMATEUR ILLUSIONIST, AND THAT WAS HIS MIND-FREAK BUDDY.

hm.

LET'S TALK IN HERE. IT'S MORE PRIVATE.

WENDY, YOU SEEM DISTRAUGHT.

I JUST... I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK.

GO BACK?

YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE ME BACK TO MY PARENTS, RIGHT? BUT FRONS AND ZUZU ARE HELPING ME EMANCIPATE MYSELF.

WENDY, YOUR PARENTS ARE MISSING.

WELL, THEY DIDN'T TELL ***ME*** WHERE THEY WERE GOING.

WHO'S TAKING CARE OF AIMEE?

I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PARENTS ***OR*** YOUR SISTER, BUT I'M A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE.

WHAT WAS THE DATE YOU RAN AWAY FROM HOME?

UH... I'M BAD WITH DATES.

E-ELAINE, ARE YOU ON THE LINE? DO YOU KNOW WHEN I CAME HERE?

HI, DETECTIVE, LET ME PULL UP MY CALENDAR--

ON MARCH TENTH WENDY STARTED WORKING HERE, AND I STARTED GATHERING THE PAPERWORK FOR THE EMANCIPATION PROCESS.

CRR-

YOU'RE BACK!!

CRACK!

WELL, DETECTIVE LADY SAW A ***LOT.*** SHOULD WE WIPE HER MEMORY?

SOB

NO!

Whisper

HEY, GREAT ***MAGIC TRICK,*** YOU GUYS!

SO, YOU'RE BACK FROM YOUR DEMONIC VISITOR?

THAT WAS A...AN UNHINGED CLIENT.

...WHO'S A MAGICIAN!

YES. ***EXACTLY.***

IT'S VERY STRANGE, ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE INSISTS ON WEARING FULL DEMONIC MAKEUP LIKE THAT, BUT SHE'S ***SO*** TALENTED...

STOP

POTATO

TELL YOUR ***UNHINGED CLIENT*** GOOD LUCK WITH HER ILLUSIONS.

BIFRON

LIFE COACHING LLC

Go now...

I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF MY PARENTS CALL ME OR ANYTHING.

SIGHMHHHH...

GO AWAY

urggh...

Phew.

DO YOU THINK SHE BOUGHT IT?

Y...ES?

SO, DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD TAKE MAMMON'S OFFER?

ARE YOU ***KIDDING?!***

OH MY ***GOD***. GOOD THING I'M ALREADY DEAD BECAUSE I WOULD HAVE ***DIED*** FROM THE STRESS JUST NOW. MAMMON ***AND*** A HOMICIDE DETECTIVE?!

BY THE WAY, IS MAMMON COOL WITH ME BEING HERE?

NONCOMMITTAL SHRUG

PROBABLY NOT. MAMMON WAS BORN DISPLEASED.

...AND ***LUCIFER*** IS PLEASED WITH MY WORK.

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL I HAVE YEARNED FOR HIS APPROVAL, AND NOW THAT I HAVE IT, ALL I FEEL IS SICK.

THIS SOUL COUNTER ILLUMINATES THE NAIVETÉ OF MY IMPOSSIBLE DREAM.

MAYBE WE WERE GOING ABOUT THIS THE WRONG WAY.

WE'RE DEMONS-- WE SHOULD BE DEMONING! STOP FEELING ***BAD*** FOR YOUR NATURE. ACCEPT AND EMBRACE IT!

"MODERN ART"

DISAPPOINTMENT

SHE SAID YOU CAN GET YOUR LUTE BACK.

THE ONE YOU TRADED. WITH BELETH.

666

SAD

I THOUGHT YOU BELIEVED IN OUR CAUSE.

IT'S NOT THAT! I'M HERE FOR ***YOU.***

WHATEVER YOU DECIDE, I'M ONE HUNDRED PERCENT BEHIND THAT.

I HAVE NO MORAL OPINIONS!

MAMMON AND LUCIFER ARE JUST MAKING A ***REALLY GOOD*** OFFER. THE KIND YOU'VE BEEN COMPLAINING ABOUT ***NOT*** GETTING FOR AT LEAST THE PAST FOUR HUNDRED YEARS.

CORRUPT THREE SOULS AND GET A HUGE PROMOTION. IT WOULD BE ***SO*** EASY. THESE FOOLISH HUMANS ARE LIKE FLIES TO A DAMNATION DONUT.

I ALWAYS LOW-KEY THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING, LIKE, INEFFABLY NOBLE ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY OF REDEMPTION.

INMATE

666

Suck- up...

IF I'VE LEARNED ONE THING FROM THE THOUSANDS OF HOURS OF SELF-DEVELOPMENT CLIPCLOPS I WATCHED IN MY LIFETIME, IT'S THAT YOU ***CAN*** CHANGE INTO THE PERSON YOU WANT TO BE.

IT'S HARD. BUT IT'S ***POSSIBLE.***

EXACTLY! ***THANK*** YOU, ***ELAINE.*** WE'VE COME TOO FAR TO GIVE UP.

THE LUTE DOESN'T MATTER. I'VE NEVER REGRETTED THE TRADE.

Breathes Slowly...

FRONS WAS THE BEST LUTENIST IN HEAVEN. HE ACTUALLY BROUGHT HIS MAGIC LUTE WITH HIM WHEN HE FELL.

Breeeathe

AND THEN HE TRADED IT FOR MY FREEDOM.

WE HAVE LUTES HERE ON EARTH!

WENDY. THIS WAS A ***SPECIAL*** LUTE.

PERVERTED HOLY POWER TURNED ***TAR BLACK*** WITH ACCURSED MUSICAL MIGHT.

666

YOU GUYS CAN'T GET PROMOTED AND ABANDON ME!

SOB!

THAT DETECTIVE ***KNOWS*** SOMETHING. I DON'T THINK I WAS VERY CONVINCING. I NEED YOUR PROTECTION.

I MEAN, DID YOU SEE HOW SHE LOOKED AT ELAINE'S LOCKET? THAT'S FROM...

...THE GRAVE.

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...

YOU WILL HAVE OUR PROTECTION, WENDY.

ORDINARILY I WOULD HAVE SIMPLY TAMPERED WITH HER MEMORY, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO RISK CORRUPTING HER SOUL WITH MY CURSED MAGIC.

RELIEVED

THAT REMINDS ME.

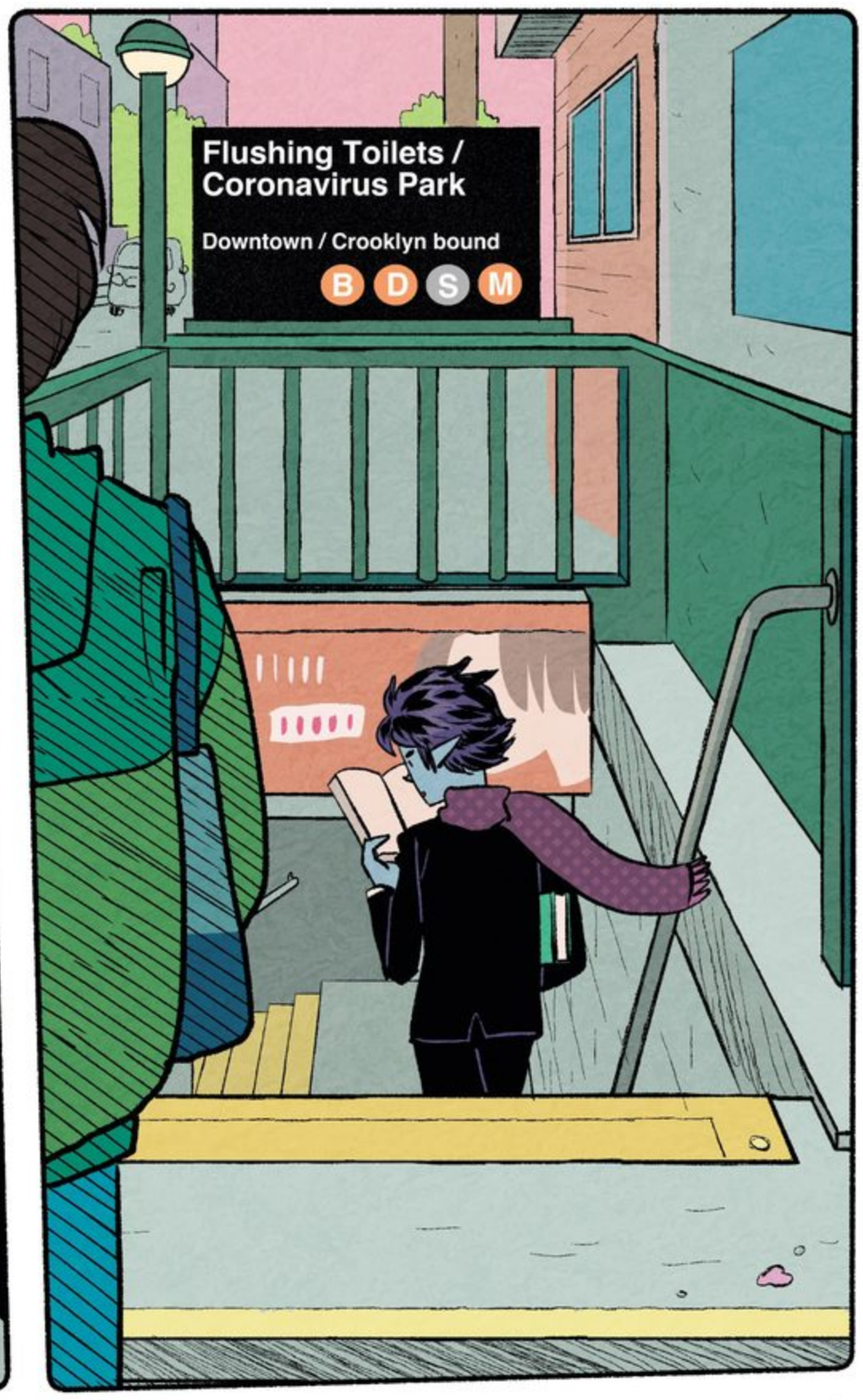
I CAN NEVER SEE FATHER ANGELO AGAIN.

I SHOULD TELL HIM IN PERSON.

...NO. I SHOULD JUST LEAVE HIM ALONE.

SIGH

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
PRANCE
DRESSAGE PARLOR
for fancy horses
EQUALITY STREET
BLOOD DRIVE TODAY
Public Library
APOCRYPHA NOW
"REVELATION"
- John Paul XVIII
DEMON SLAYER


Flushing Toilets / Coronavirus Park
Downtown / Crooklyn bound
B D S M

Weekends
FRONS!
One week after Mammon's disastrous visit, I see him again.
Flushing Toilets/ Corona
Opinion Box
Hey! I'm poopin' here!

GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HUH? FATHER ANGELO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

I RUN A MONTHLY BLOOD DRIVE OVER AT THE LIBRARY. YOU SHOULD COME BY NEXT MONTH AND GIVE BLOOD.
I MAKE THE BEST HOMEMADE COOKIES, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.

YOU WANT ONE?

NIBBLE

IT'S DELICIOUS.

Apocrypha now

OH, I SEE YOU'VE GOT A BOOK ABOUT THE APOCRYPHA!

DAN BROWN ANGELS & DE

APOCRYPHA NOW

LOOKING DEEPER INTO DEMONIC REDEMPTION?

F

HOOOO~

THAT'S THE PLAN.

DINGG

EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT WITH YOU? YOU SEEM DOWN.

IT'S FUNNY. I GOT OFFERED EVERYTHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED. BUT I DON'T WANT IT ANYMORE.

I ***SHOULD*** FEEL GRATEFUL.

BUT TO TAKE THE REWARD, I'D HAVE TO BETRAY THE VALUES I'M TRYING TO ESPOUSE, HOWEVER POINTLESSLY.

PEE

WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO. TEMPTATION IS THE DEVIL'S FAVORITE TRICK.

heh

THAT IT IS.

SO DON'T FALL FOR IT.

BUT IT MEANS I CAN'T SEE YOU ANYMORE. I'D BE PUTTING YOU IN DANGER BY TALKING TO YOU.

I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF. IF ARMED THUGS COME AFTER ME I'LL JUST ***BLESS*** THEM INTO SUBMISSION.

THAT MIGHT ACTUALLY WORK.

IT'S SO UNFORTUNATE. I ALWAYS FEEL BETTER AFTER TALKING TO YOU. AND YET THIS MUST BE OUR FINAL GOODBYE.

SIGH...

CAN I HAVE YOUR NUMBER? SO I CAN BLOCK IT?

FINE, I'LL PUNCH IT IN.

THERE. I'M BLOCKED.

ADD CONTACT

CONTACT
FATHER ANGELO
Blocked
NOTES: Praying 4 you w/ my buddy Jesus

AND IF YOU EVER NEED ME, JUST CLICK ON THE THREE DOTS IN THE CORNER TO UNBLOCK ME.

NOW APPROACHING NIGHTMARE ALLEY / 42ND STREET.

SHREK TANK season 7

EET. NEXT STOP: DEBBIE FOR

OH! THIS IS MY STOP.

I GUESS THIS IS GOODBYE.

BYE, FRONS.

Please Stand clear of the closing doors...

DOON DOON!

Nightmare Alley / 42nd St.

N

WHOOSH

We've been taking it slow with new clients. But Zuzu tells me I mustn't be so scared of failure that I fail to act at all, which is the cringiest form of failure.

WELCOME, COME IN.

She's convinced me to meet with our newest potential client, Della Sole, who is homebound due to age, infirmity, and suicidal depression.

I'D OFFER YOU SOME TEA, BUT I RAN OUT.

I'LL BE CANDID.

I DIDN'T STOCK UP ON GROCERIES THIS WEEK, BECAUSE I WAS PLANNING TO KILL MYSELF AND I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE FOOD.

YOU SHOULDN'T DO THAT. IF YOU KILL YOURSELF, YOU'LL GO TO HELL.

SIGH...

THAT'S THE PROBLEM.

JE SUS

I WANT TO MEET MY LORD AND SAVIOR.

SO, WHAT, YOU CALLED US HERE TO MURDER YOU...?

D66

I DON'T KNOW ***WHAT*** I WANT.

I'M COMPLETELY ALONE IN THE WORLD.

EVERYONE I'VE EVER CARED ABOUT IS DEAD, OR BUSY BEING YOUNG AND HAPPY.

I LOST ERNIE FIFTEEN YEARS BACK, AND MY ONLY DAUGHTER TWELVE YEARS AGO.

EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE FELT LIKE... LEFTOVER MEATLOAF THAT GOT LOST IN THE BACK OF THE FRIDGE.

I'VE GOT A HEART CONDITION, AND I'VE JUST BEEN WAITING FOR THE OLD TICKER TO GIVE OUT. BUT I GUESS I'M STRONGER THAN I THOUGHT.

hmm...

I JUST KEEP THINKING ABOUT HOW IF I COULD JUST GO BACK IN TIME, I'D HAVE DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

I'D HAVE TAKEN MORE CHANCES, GOTTEN UP OUT OF MY RECLINER. ERNIE AND I WOULD HAVE GONE OUT DANCING INSTEAD OF WATCHING ***HOLLYWOOD CUBES.***

I WOULD'VE CONQUERED MY FEARS. BUT IT'S TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING NOW.

IF ONLY I COULD GO BACK...

Mrs. Sole spoke so plangently of her desire to time travel. It took all my willpower not to cast a time-travel hex upon her and let her relive her life to the fullest.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE. AS LONG AS YOU'RE ALIVE, YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS.

THAT'S A NICE THOUGHT.

unmoved

inspire

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A LIST OF THINGS YOU WANT TO DO BEFORE YOU DIE, LIKE A BUCKET LIST?

OH, ERNIE AND I ***LOVED*** THAT MOVIE.

...AND ***WE*** CAN MAKE THOSE THINGS HAPPEN! SO YOU CAN DIE HAPPY AND NOT BE DAMNED TO HELL FOR DEFILING YOUR CARNAL VESSEL.

Della's Bucket List

Roast Marshmallows ☑

Make an Online Video ☑

Write a poem ☑

Dance with a handsome fellow ☑

Compete on Hollywood Cubes! ☑

Embrace my inner Goddess ☑

Be a force for good ☑

Ride a roller coaster ☐

CHURROS
Stuff
Other Stuff
TRASH
SO, WE'VE GOT ***ONE*** MORE ITEM ON THE AGENDA FOR TODAY-- RIDING ON A ROLLER COASTER.
I MUST SAY, THIS HAS BEEN THE BEST FEW DAYS I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME.
AWW! WE LOVE HANGING OUT WITH YOU, DELLA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS READY TO KILL MYSELF, WHEN THERE'S CHURROS TO EAT, ROLLER COASTERS TO RIDE, AND A WHOLE WORLD OF POSSIBILITIES.
OK!
WE SHOULD PROBABLY HAVE CHURROS ***AFTER*** THE ROLLER COASTER. BETTER TO RIDE ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
THE DEVASTATOR
YOU MUST BE THIS TALL
FOUR FOR ***THE DEVASTATOR***, PLEASE!
AH H HEE
UH...ARE YOU ***SURE*** YOU WANT TO RIDE, MA'AM?
I KNOW MY RIGHTS! I AM AN AMERICAN!
OKAY, OKAY, SHEESH. GET IN LINE. ***NEXT!***
AH H H H
NOT LIABLE FOR ANYTHING
WALK THIS WAAYY

CHK CHK CHK CHK CHK

CHK CHK CHK CHK

AHHHHHHH

THUMP THUMP-!

DELLA?!

...

UWOO

SLUMP

WELL. WHAT A WAY TO GO. NO ONE'S CALLING ME BORING ANYMORE.

HOW DO YOU FEEL? READY TO MOVE ON?

I'VE ***BEEN*** READY.

BUT NOW I'M VERY MUCH AT PEACE.

I JUST WISH I COULD'VE TRIED THOSE CHURROS.

heh

BUT I'M SURE THEY'VE GOT CHURROS IN HEAVEN.

THEY DIDN'T WHEN *I* WAS THERE.

NOOO! ***DELLA!*** I WANTED TO HANG OUT MORE!!

YOU TWO MUST'VE BEEN MY GUARDIAN ANGELS. YOU SAVED ME.

Mom!! Mooooommm!!

I HEAR MY DAUGHTER CALLING ME.

GIFT SHOP

THE DEVASTATOR

PHOTOS

REMEMBER THE GOOD TIMES!

$30 (with commemorative frame!)

I SURVIVED THE DEVASTATOR

EMT

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S GONE.

SOB...

TW

I...I TOLD HER NOT TO HAVE A CHURRO...

NOW SHE'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHURROS...!

TW

OW

THERE, THERE, IT'S OKAY.

BUT WENDY, ZUZU...

...LOOK.

****
SOULS DAMNED:
63
SOULS SAVED:
1
****

EXIT

W-WOW...

!!

TW

I guess it's not so hopeless after all.

CHURROS

THE DEVASTATOR

SO good!

It's closed...

WAHH

RIDE CLOSED
Sorry!

ON SALE SEPTEMBER 2026!

The trade paperback collecting the series!

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"